In view of the above, it is believed that all pending claims are directed to allowable subject matter. Further, applicants have presented sufficient basis for the institution of an interference between the instant application and U.S. Patent No. 5,679,691, and an interference should accordingly be instituted at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

Jones, Tullar & Cooper, P.C. P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station Arlington, Virginia 22202 415-1500

Filed: March 15, 2000

BY

James W. Hellwege

Registration No. 28,808